A GENUINE MYSTERY?

CHAPTER 11: BERN POSES A QUESTION

BATTLER
IN THE GAMES YOU FOUGHT AGAINST BEATO BEFORE
IT WAS ABOUT WHETHER THE CULPRIT WAS A WITCH OR A HUMAN.
IN OTHER WORDS, A FIGHT OF FANTASY VS. MYSTERY
BEATO CONSTRUCTED A STORY OF MURDER CLAIMING IT TO BE COMMITTED BY A WITCH
AND YOU WOULD WIN IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN THOSE WITH HUMAN MEANS
IT WAS JUST ABOUT DENYING THE WITCH AND YOU HAD A CHANCE OF WINNING EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T PIN DOWN A CONCRETE CULPRIT
BUT BERN'S GAME IS MUCH SIMPLER
A SIMPLE STORY OF MURDER COMMITTED BY A HUMAN CULPRIT
IF YOU SOLVE THE GAME BY FOLLOWING ALL THE RULES YOU CAN DEFINITELY FIND THE CULPRIT
AND TO FIND THE CULPRIT IS THE WINNING CONDITION
...THAT MEANS

EXACTLY
IT'S A NORMAL DETECTIVE NOVEL...!
I DEMAND JUST ONE ANSWER FROM THE TWO OF YOU
I OMITTED BOTH MOTIVE AND TRICKS.
WHO DUNNIT

THERE IS ROOM TO WIN FOR BATTLER AND BEATO.
IF YOU DON'T SOLVE IT CORRECTLY, BERN WINS.
I ALSO ENSURE YOU THAT THE STAGE OF YOUR DUEL IS FAIR.
THIS GAME IS MADE SO IT CAN BE SOLVED.
AND SERVING AS WITNESS I DECLARE ...
IT'S REALLY SIMPLE AND PURE.
IF THAT'S NOT A FITTING FINALE FOR US.
HEH... THIS SHOULD BE FUN
IT'S LIKE READING THE CHALLENGE TO THE READER" PART OF A DETECTIVE NOVEL.

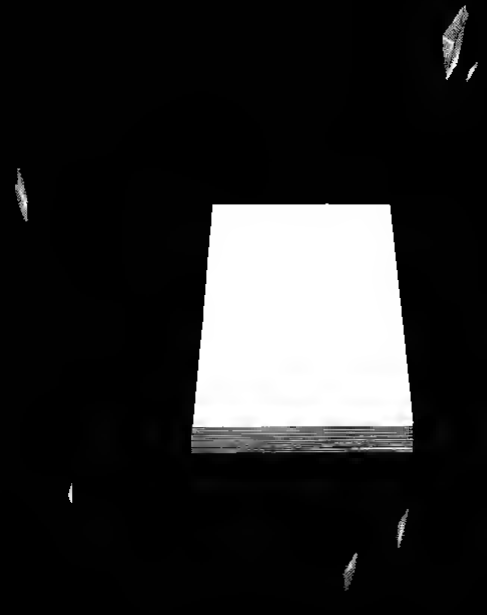
IF MY BEST IS NOT ENOUGH THEN SO IT SHALL BE.
IT'S A WELL MADE GAME, BUT DO YOU THINK IT'LL WORK ON THEM?
BUT BERN? BATTLER AND BEATO STARTED OUT OVER THEIR LOVE OF MYSTERY...
HMM...
IT WAS FOUL.
ME BEING LOOKED DOWN BY BEATO WITHOUT EVER ACTUALLY STEPPING UP.
I AM HONORED TO HAVE YOU AS AN OPPONENT.
THIS DUEL IS TO DISSOCIATE MYSELF FROM THAT.
PROMISE ME JUST THIS.
BERN-KASTEL.

LET'S BE FRIENDS WHEN THIS DUEL IS OVER.
WHOEVER WINS OR LOSES ...
OH JUST STOP.
I'LL DIE OF FLATTERY.
WELL THEN, LET'S BEGIN.
NO NEED FOR READING IT OUT LOUD! READ THE STORY YOURSELF.
EEEEH? BUT YOU'LL LOSE YOUR ADVANTAGE!
A GAME IS DISTORTED DEPENDING ON THE READER AND MAY EVEN MANIPULATE IMPRESSIONS, LIKE BEATO USED FOR THE DRAMATIZATION OF HER WITCH ILLUSION.
IN A FAIR GAME THAT IS JUST DISTRACTION.

SO NOT HAVING A READER MEANS...
THERE IS NO DECEPTION IN ANY OF THE STAGE DIRECTIONS.
AN AUTHENTIC MYSTERY BATTLE IS SOMETHING WE CAN ACCEPT ANY DAY.
THANK YOU.
I'M NOT PLANNING TO LOSE THOUGH.
CACKLE
THAT'S NO GOOD LADY BERNKASTEL.
YEAH!
THAT BEHAVIOUR DOESN'T WORK FOR A WITCH POSING A MYSTERY...!

A FRIENDLY MYSTERY DISCOURSE BETWEEN HUMANS AND WITCHES? SO BORING I COULD PUKE!
AHAHA!
HAHA!
HAHA!
HI...
HI-HI-HI...
TWITCH
SO FOOLISH IT MAKES ME LAUGH!!

DON'T START CRYING WHEN WE BEAT YOU!!!
BEA-TRICE, THE GOLDEN WITCH ...
AND THE GAMEMASTER, BATTLER! WE ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
AND IF YOU CAN'T ...!
I WILL SEE IF YOU CAN STAND UP TO MY MYS-TERY!!
EAT THIS!
THIS IS BERN-KAS-TEL'S MYS-TERY!!



Murder game in the Rokken island

Rules

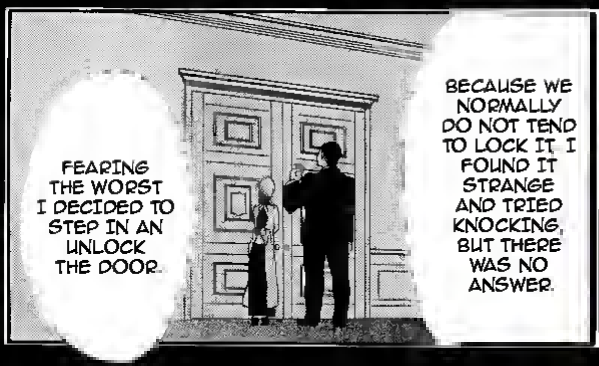
- A CULPRIT IS DEFINED AS A MURDERER
- A CULPRIT HAS THE ABILITY TO LIE
- A CULPRIT HAS THE ABILITY TO LIE EVEN BEFORE ANY MURDERS
- THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT THE CULPRIT CAN ONLY TELL THE TRUTH
- THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT THE CULPRIT WILL NOT AID THE CULPRIT
- A CULPRIT WILL CARRY OUT ALL MURDERS DIRECTLY WITH THEIR OWN HANDS
- A CULPRIT DOES NOT DIE
- DEATH MEANS DEATH OF THE FLESH
- A CULPRIT IS AMONG THE GIVEN CHARACTERS
- NO LIES EXIST WITHIN THE STAGE DIRECTIONS

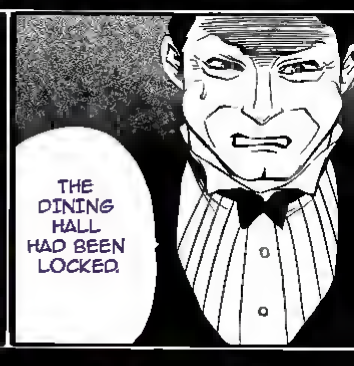
1ST TWILIGHT
OCTOBER 5TH 8:03AM
WHAT IS GO-ING ON?!
A MURDER ON AN ISLAND ISOLATED BY A STORM? THIS IS WAY TOO CONVEN-IENT!
DAMN IT...!
WHO WOULD DO THIS ...?

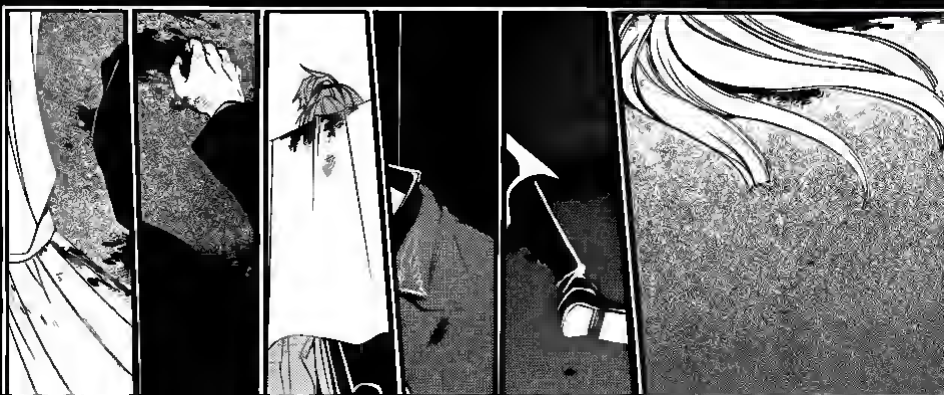
THE TRAGEDY OF
THE FIRST TWILIGHT
WAS DISCOVERED ON
OCTOBER 5TH 06:00AM

GOHDA GOT UP TO PREPARE BREAKFAST AND WENT TO LOOK HOW THE SIBLINGS WERE DOING WHO HAD BEEN HAULED UP IN THE DINING HALL SINCE LAST NIGHT BECAUSE OF THE FAMILY CONFERENCE.

THERE HE RAN INTO KUMASAWA WHO BECAME THE FIRST TO DISCOVER IT.


FEARING THE WORST I DECIDED TO STEP IN AN UNLOCK THE DOOR.
BECAUSE WE NORMALLY DO NOT TEND TO LOCK IT I FOUND IT STRANGE AND TRIED KNOCKING, BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER.





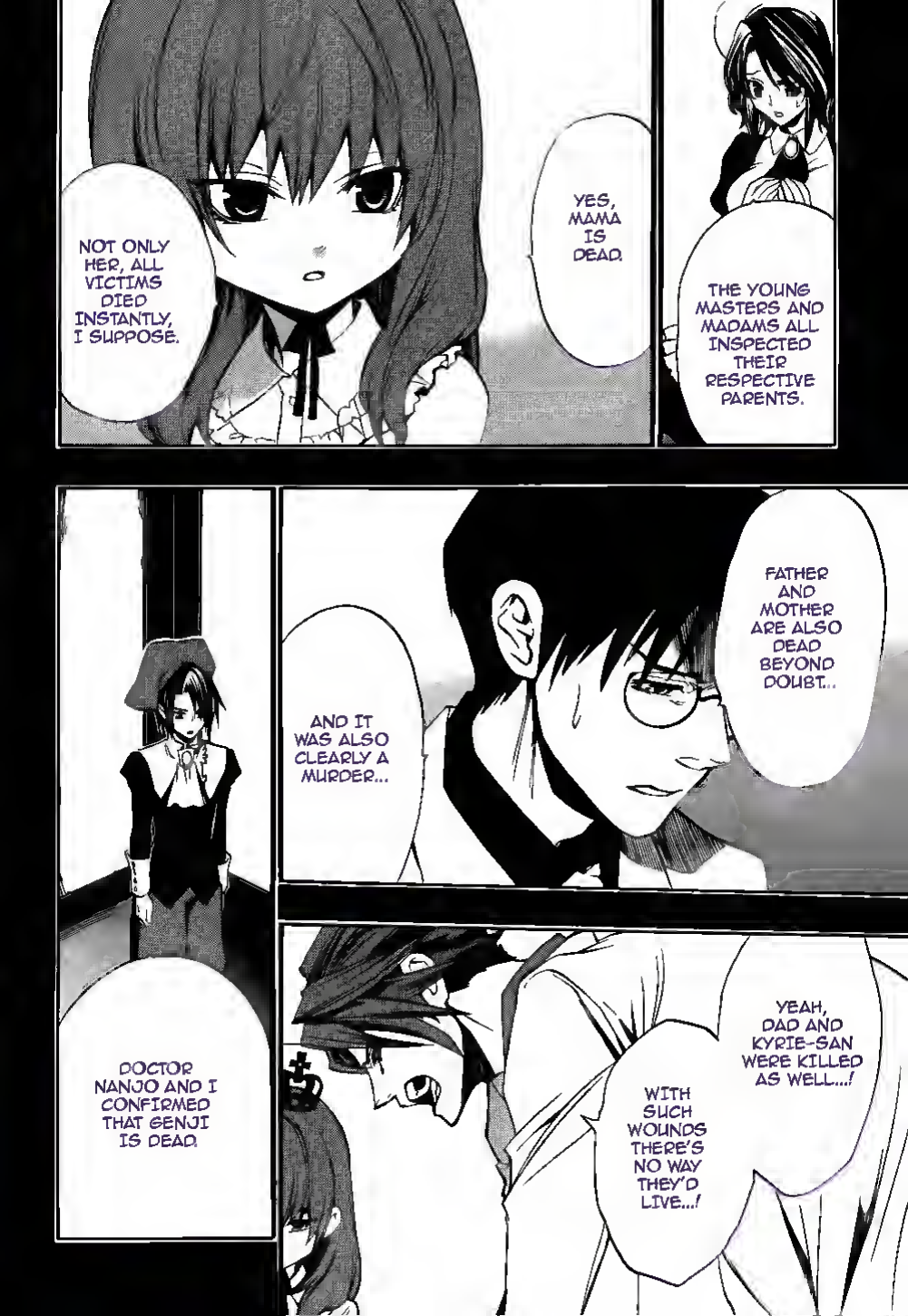
THERE WERE EVA-SAMA, HIDEYOSHI-SAMA, RUDOLPH-SAMA, KYRIE-SAMA, ROSA-SAMA AND GENJI-SAN, THOSE 6 PEOPLE ALL BLOOD-SMEARED AND COLLAPSED.

A HUGE COM-MO-TION ROSE.

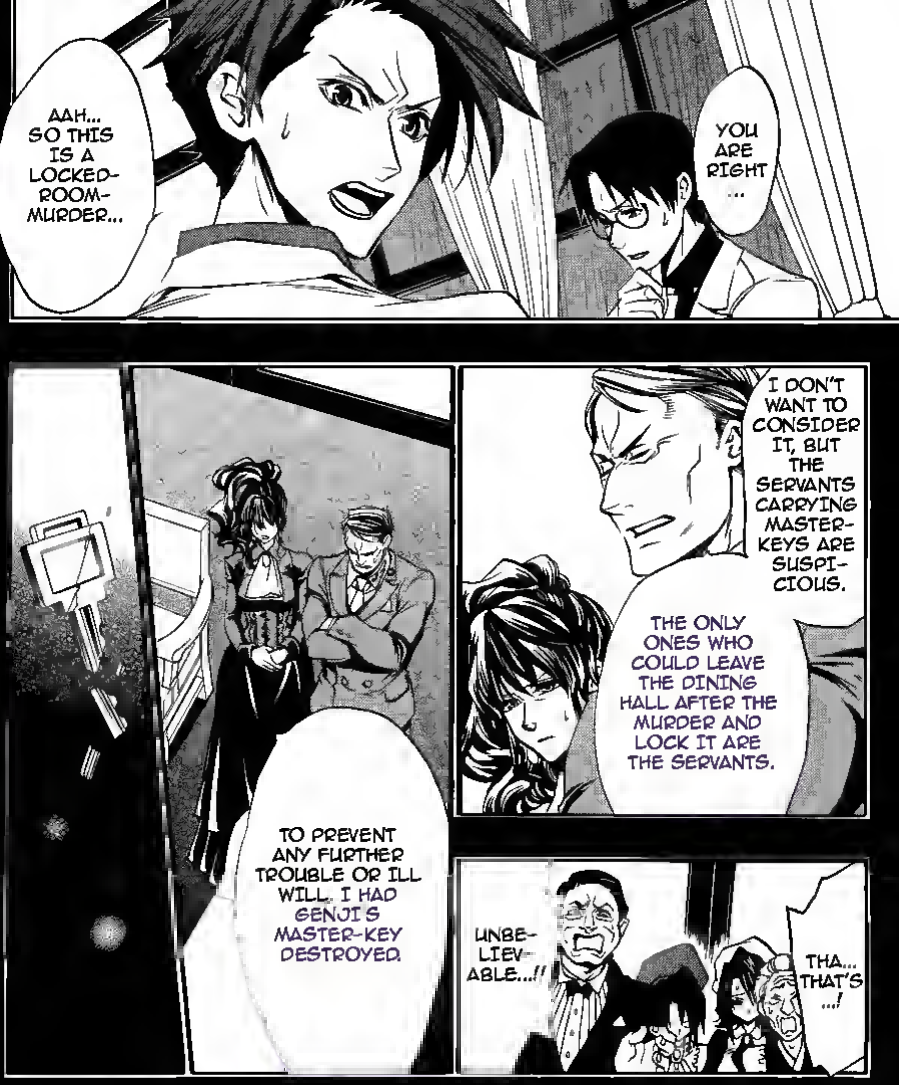
EVERYONE GATHERED IN THE DINING ALL.

IT WAS LIKE A PIC-TURE OF HELL.

ALL THE CHILDREN CLINGING TO THEIR PARENTS, SCREAM-ING AND CRYING...


THE YOUNG MASTERS AND MADAMS ALL INSPECTED THEIR RESPECTIVE PARENTS.
YES, MAMA IS DEAD.
NOT ONLY HER, ALL VICTIMS DIED INSTANTLY, I SUPPOSE.
FATHER AND MOTHER ARE ALSO DEAD BEYOND DOUBT...
AND IT WAS ALSO CLEARLY A MURDER...
YEAH, DAD AND KYRIE-SAN WERE KILLED AS WELL...!
WITH SUCH WOUNDS THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D LIVE...!
DOCTOR NANJO AND I CONFIRMED THAT GENJI IS DEAD.

AT THE SAME TIME THEY DID AN INSPECTION OF THE WHOLE DINING HALL
IT WAS A BRUTAL WAY TO KILL ...
ANYBODY BESIDES ME COULD VERIFY THEY ARE DEAD..
BUT NEITHER WAS ANYBODY HIDING IN THERE, NOR DID THEY FIND SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS.
BUT..
THIS IS REALLY WEIRD.
BUT ALL THE WINDOWS AND DOORS HAD BEEN LOCKED, SO THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS A LOCKED-ROOM.
SO IF THERE ARE ONLY THE VICTIMS IN THIS LOCKED-ROOM...
HOW COULD THE CULPRIT KILL THEM AND THEN ESCAPE?!

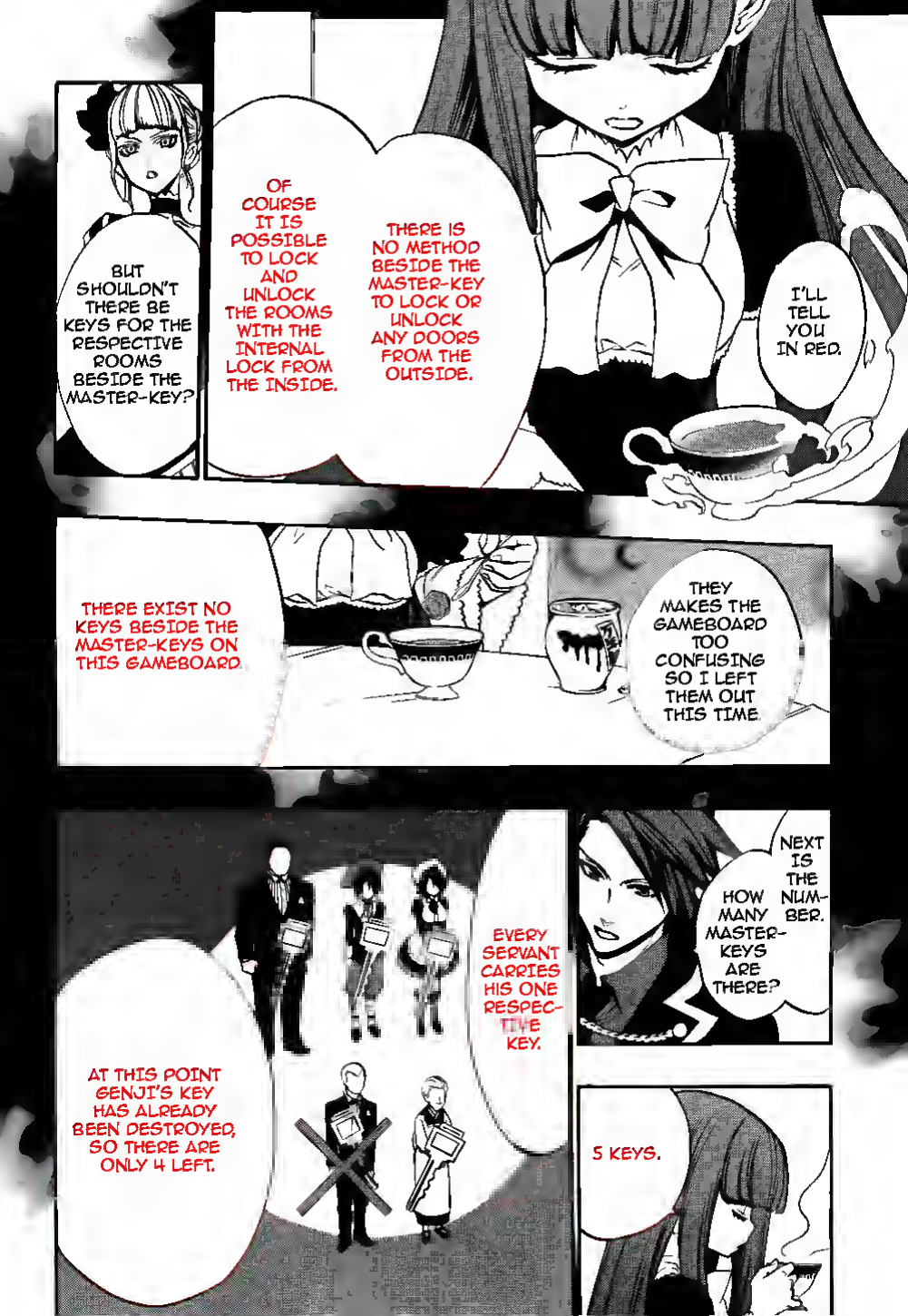

AAH... SO THIS IS A LOCKED-ROOM-MURDER...
YOU ARE RIGHT...
I DON'T WANT TO CONSIDER IT, BUT THE SERVANTS CARRYING MASTER-KEYS ARE SUSPICIOUS.
THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD LEAVE THE DINING HALL AFTER THE MURDER AND LOCK IT ARE THE SERVANTS.
TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER TROUBLE OR ILL WILL, I HAD GENJI'S MASTER-KEY DESTROYED.
UNBELIEVABLE...!!
THA... THAT'S ...!

IT IS ONLY NATURAL TO SUSPECT THE SERVANTS WITH A MASTER-KEY DUE TO THE CRIME SCENE SITUATION.

AND NONE OF THE SERVANTS HAD AN ALIBI.

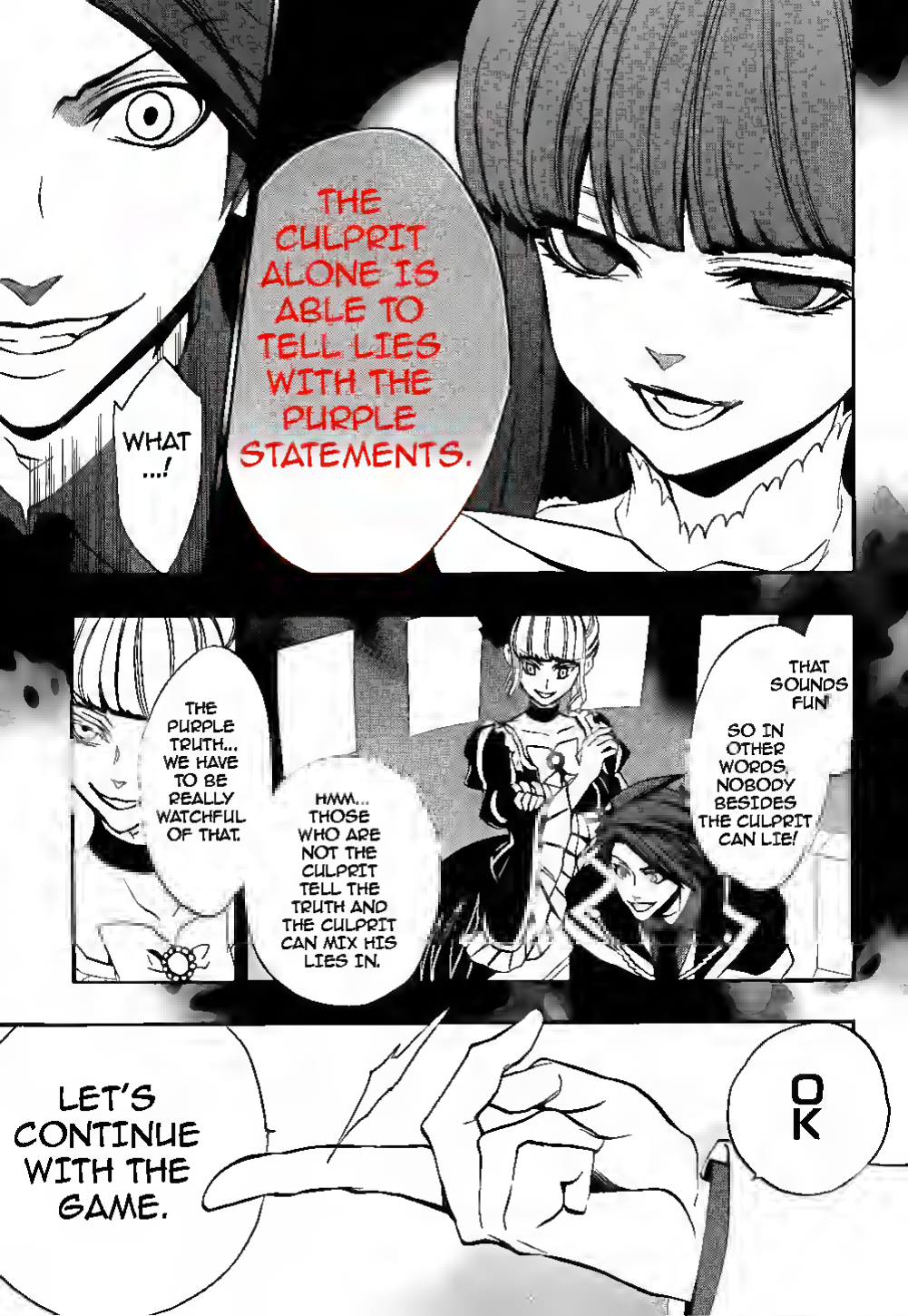
MORE THAN THAT, NONE OF THE SURVIVORS HAD AN ALIBI TO SHOW...

STOP
THERE'S A LOT I WANT TO CONFIRM ABOUT THE SETTING.
AL-RIGHT.
FIRST, ABOUT THE KEYS.
IS THERE ANY METHOD BESIDE THE MASTER-KEYS TO LOCK ROOMS FROM THE OUTSIDE?


I'LL TELL YOU IN RED.
THERE IS NO METHOD BESIDE THE MASTER-KEY TO LOCK OR UNLOCK ANY DOORS FROM THE OUTSIDE.
OF COURSE IT IS POSSIBLE TO LOCK AND UNLOCK THE ROOMS WITH THE INTERNAL LOCK FROM THE INSIDE.
BUT SHOULDN'T THERE BE KEYS FOR THE RESPECTIVE ROOMS BESIDE THE MASTER-KEY?
THEY MAKES THE GAMEBOARD TOO CONFUSING SO I LEFT THEM OUT THIS TIME.
THERE EXIST NO KEYS BESIDE THE MASTER-KEYS ON THIS GAMEBOARD.
NEXT IS THE NUMBER.
HOW MANY MASTER-KEYS ARE THERE?
EVERY SERVANT CARRIES HIS ONE RESPECTIVE KEY.
AT THIS POINT GENJI'S KEY HAS ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED, SO THERE ARE ONLY 4 LEFT.
5 KEYS.

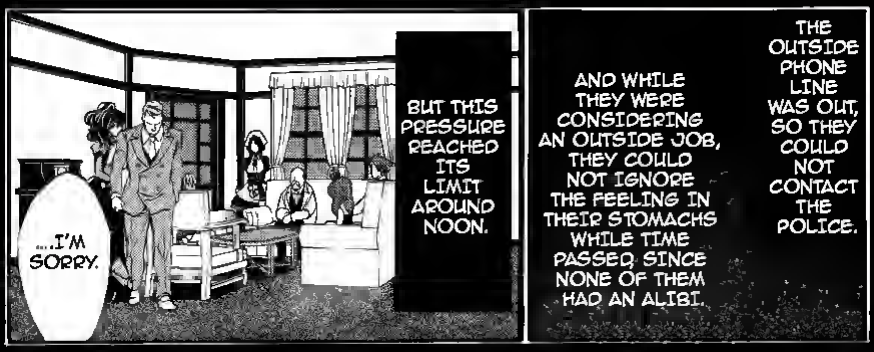
THEY CAN NOT BE STOLEN OR HANDED OVER, THEY CANNOT EVEN BE USED BY ANYONE BESIDES THE CARRIER THEMSEVES.
AND THE MASTER-KEY IS ALWAYS ATTACHED TO THEIR BODY.
IN OTHER WORDS, ONLY THE SERVANTS CAN LOCK OR UNLOCK THE DOORS WITH KEYS IN THIS GAME...
WHAT THE...?!
THEY CAN'T BE USED?
IS THERE MORE?
THERE WAS ONE THING I NOTICED.
YES. THERE IS.
FROM THE START THERE WERE CONSTANTLY THESE STATEMENTS! IS THAT A NEW RULE?
YES, MAMA IS DEAD
NOT ONLY HER, ALL VICTIMS DIED INSTANTLY, I SUPPOSE
DOCTOR NANJO AND I CONFIRMED THAT RENJI IS DEAD
WITH SUCH WOUNDS THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D LIVE...

PURPLE STATE-MENT?
IT'S A RULE INHERENT TO THIS GAME.
IT'S CALLED, "THE PURPLE STATEMENT".
I CREATED IT SO THE STORY BECAME EASIER TO UNDER-STAND.
THE PURPLE STATEMENT CARRIES THE SAME POWER AS THE RED TRUTH.
SO YOU COULD MAYBE JUST IGNORE ALL THE STATEMENTS NOT MADE IN PURPLE.
....BUT
TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER TROUBLE OR ILL WILL, I HAD GENJI'S MASTER-KEY DESTROYED.


THE CULPRIT ALONE IS ABLE TO TELL LIES WITH THE PURPLE STATEMENTS.
WHAT ...!
THE PURPLE TRUTH... WE HAVE TO BE REALLY WATCHFUL OF THAT.
HMM... THOSE WHO ARE NOT THE CULPRIT TELL THE TRUTH AND THE CULPRIT CAN MIX HIS LIES IN.
SO IN OTHER WORDS, NOBODY BESIDES THE CULPRIT CAN LIE!
THAT SOUNDS FUN
LET'S CONTINUE WITH THE GAME.
OK

2ND TWILIGHT

EVERYONE RETURNED TO THE PARLOR FOR THE TIME BEING AND DISCUSSED WHAT TO DO FROM THEN ON.


...I'M SORRY.
BUT THIS PRESSURE REACHED ITS LIMIT AROUND NOON.
AND WHILE THEY WERE CONSIDERING AN OUTSIDE JOB, THEY COULD NOT IGNORE THE FEELING IN THEIR STOMACHS WHILE TIME PASSED SINCE NONE OF THEM HAD AN ALIBI.
THE OUTSIDE PHONE LINE WAS OUT, SO THEY COULD NOT CONTACT THE POLICE.

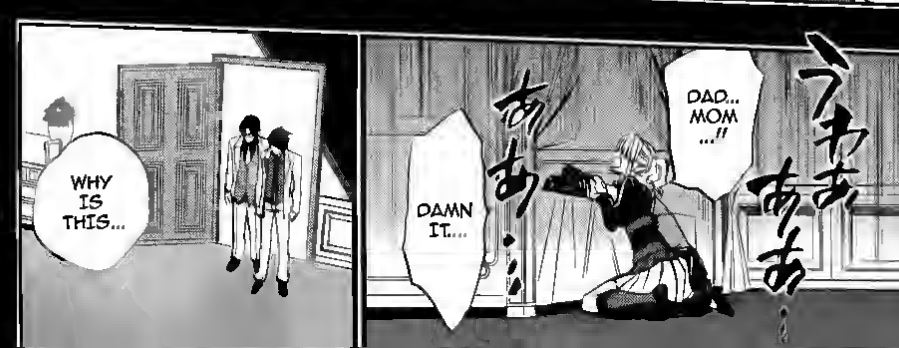
STARTING WITH KRAUSS AND NATSUHI'S ACTION THEY USED THIS AS A SHORT BREAK.
WE WILL SHORTLY GO AND DISCUSS FURTHER ACTIONS IN OUR ROOM.

IT WAS ONLY KRAUSS AND NATSUHI WHO DIDN'T RETURN AS TIME PASSED ON.
SOME-THING IS WRONG...
... YET.
... HEY.
MOM AND DAD ARE RUNNING LATE...
YOU DON'T THINK SOME-THING HAP-PENED...
I TRIED CALLING THEM OVER THE HOUSE-LINE, BUT NO MATTER HOW OFTEN THEY DIDN'T PICK UP...
SO EVERYONE DECIDED TO HEAD OVER TO NATSUHI'S ROOM
MOM?!
ARE YOU THERE?!
ANSWER ME!!!
UNGH ...
THE DOOR IS LOCKED ...!

MILADY, I WILL UNLOCK IT...!
CLICK
.....
NG!

MOM...
DAD....
THEY DIED INSTANTLY, I SUPPOSE ...
IT'S... TOO LATE. THEY ARE BOTH DEAD ....
DOCTOR NANJO! HURRY!!

DAMN IT!
A-GAIN!
THE WINDOW IS LOCKED!
AGAIN!
YOU WANNA TELL ME THIS ROOM IS ALSO A LOCKED ROOM?!


WHY IS THIS...
DAMN IT...
DAD... MOM ...!!
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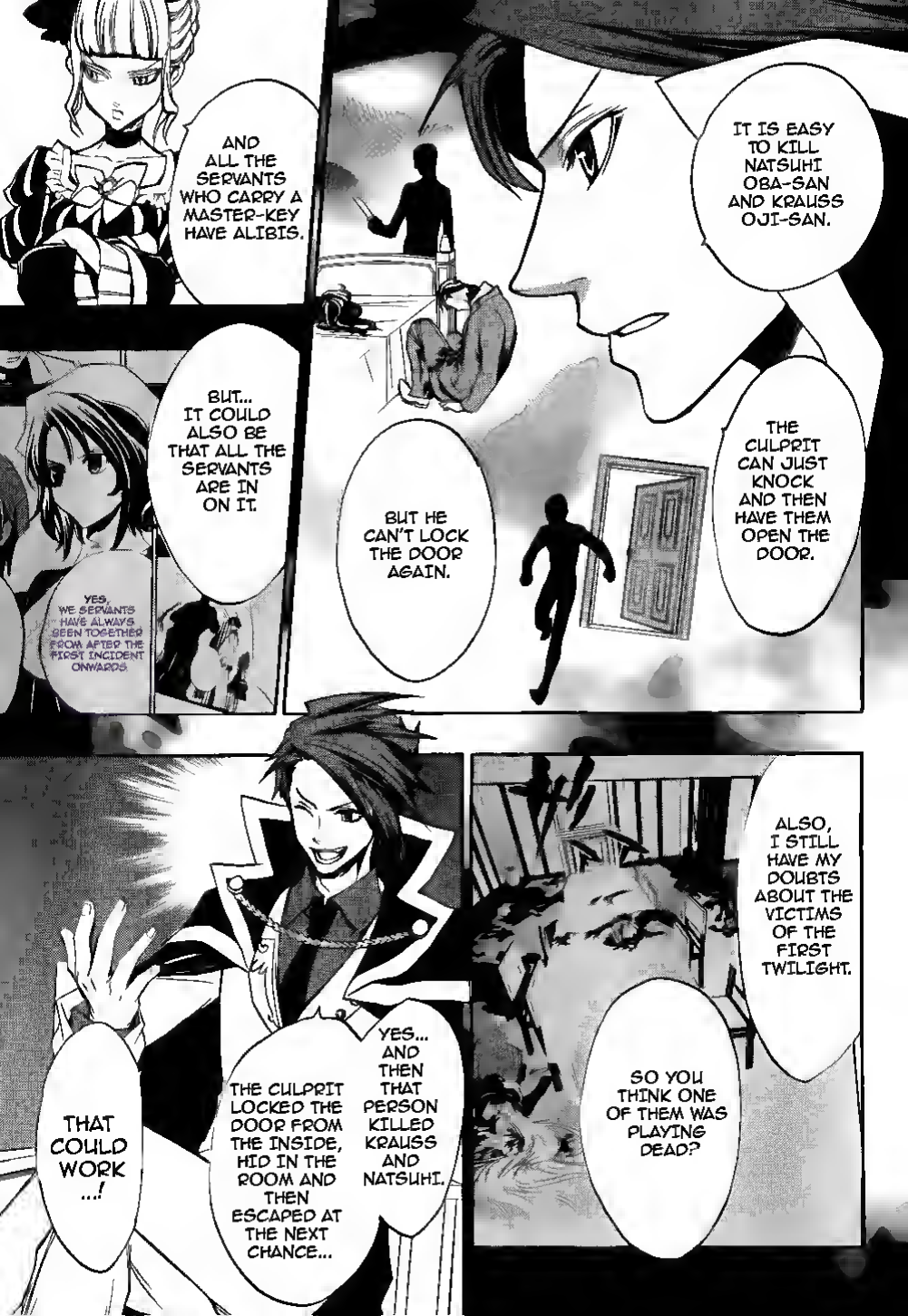
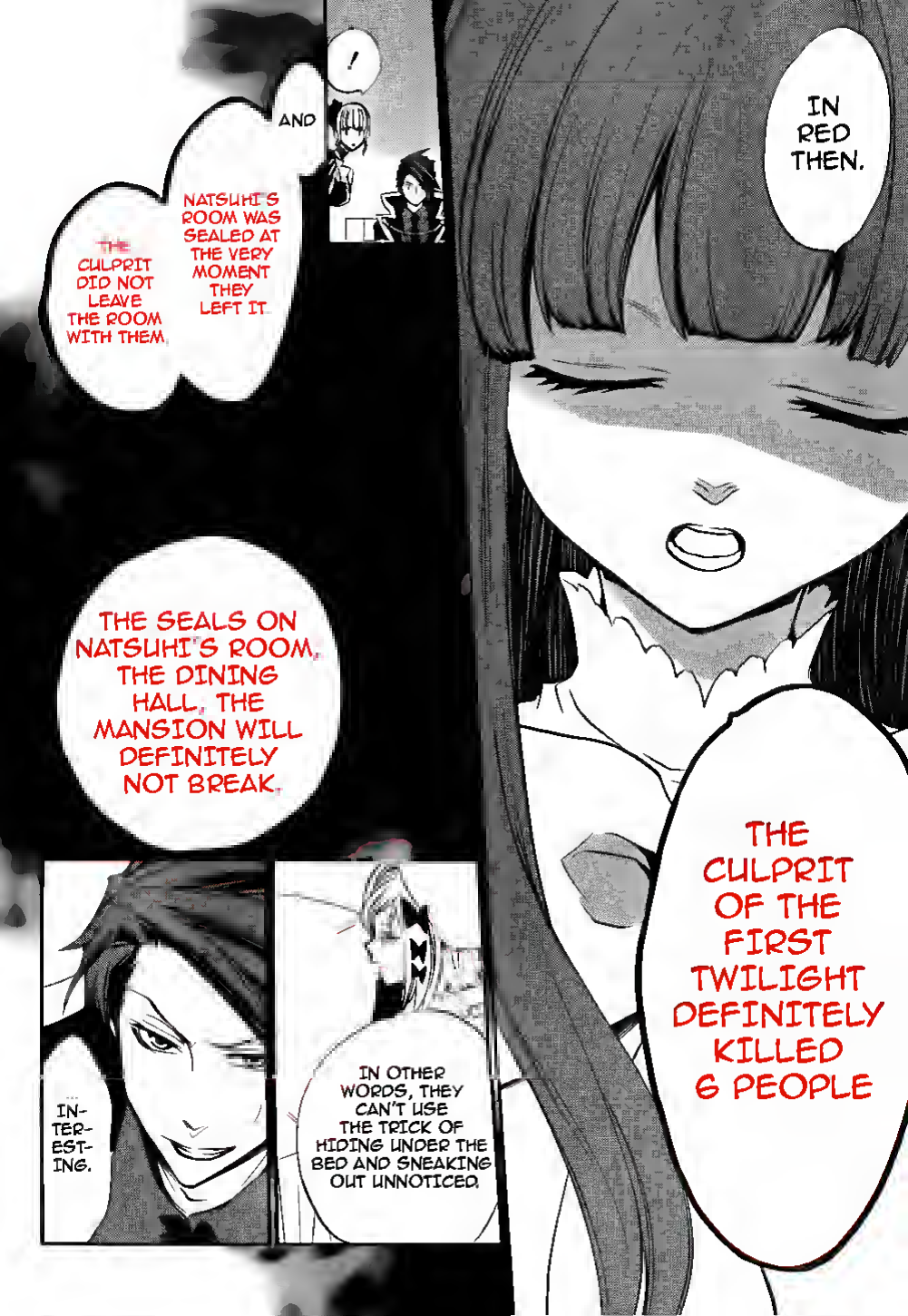
SO THIS IS A LOCKED ROOM AS WELL...
SO THAT MEANS ...
NO ...
NO, GEORGE -SAMA!
THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DOUBT THE SERVANTS DUE TO THEIR MASTER-KEYS.....
PLEASE, STAY CALM! IN ORDER TO ESCAPE SUSPICION WE WERE KEEPING WATCH ON EACH OTHER!
WHAT ...?
YES, WE SERVANTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER FROM AFTER THE FIRST INCIDENT ONWARDS.
WE SERVANTS CAN VERIFY THE ALIBI OF EACH OF OTHER SERVANT.

WHAT...?
WHA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...
NONE OF US CAN CARRY ANY OF THE MASTER-KEYS AND IF YOU ALL HAVE ALIBIS THEN...
THAT WOULD MEAN THAT THERE IS NOBODY WHO COULD HAVE CREATED THIS LOCKED-ROOM...
BEFORE LONG
SOMEONE PROPOSED TO KEEP THE CRIME SCENE INTACT.
IN ORDER TO DELIVER AN UNSPOILED CRIME SCENE TO THE POLICE, THE ROOM WAS SEALED SO THAT NOBODY COULD ENTER OR EXIT IT.
.....
...HUH

FIRST THEY SEALED THE DOOR TO NATSUHI'S ROOM WITH DUCT TAPE.
THE SAME ON THE DOOR TO THE DIN-ING HALL.
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF BOTH THE INTEGRITY OF THE CRIME SCENE AND THEIR WELL-BEING, THEY ALSO SEALED THE MANSION ITSELF AND MOVED OVER TO THE GUESTHOUSE.
FROM NOW ON, NOBODY CAN ENTER OR EXIT THE MANSION...

THEY SEALED THE MANSION ITSELF?
IN THIS GAME ALL THE WINDOWS ARE EQUIPPED WITH FIXED FITTINGS AND STEEL BARS, SO ENTRY OR EXIT THROUGH THEM IS IMPOSSIBLE.
LET ME SIMPLIFY THE GAME BEFORE IT TURNS TOO CONFUSING.
...SO YOU WANNA TELL ME THEY USED A LADDER TO EVEN SEAL THE WINDOWS ON THE 3RD FLOOR?
THEREFORE, JUST BY SEALING TWO DOORS, THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND THE BACK DOOR, THE MANSION CAN BE SEALED.
SEALED
ENTRY/EXIT IMPOSSIBLE
BATTLER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SECOND TWILIGHT?
....WELL.
...I SEE.

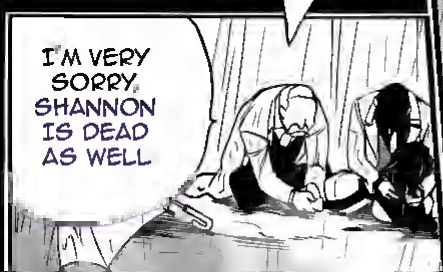

IT IS EASY TO KILL NATSUHI OBA-SAN AND KRAUSS OJI-SAN.
THE CULPRIT CAN JUST KNOCK AND THEN HAVE THEM OPEN THE DOOR.
BUT HE CAN'T LOCK THE DOOR AGAIN.
AND ALL THE SERVANTS WHO CARRY A MASTER-KEY HAVE ALIBIS.
BUT... IT COULD ALSO BE THAT ALL THE SERVANTS ARE IN ON IT.
YES, WE SERVANTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER FROM AFTER THE FIRST INCIDENT ONWARDS.
ALSO, I STILL HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT THE VICTIMS OF THE FIRST TWILIGHT.
SO YOU THINK ONE OF THEM WAS PLAYING DEAD?
YES... AND THEN THAT PERSON KILLED KRAUSS AND NATSUHI.
THE CULPRIT LOCKED THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE, HID IN THE ROOM AND THEN ESCAPED AT THE NEXT CHANCE...
THAT COULD WORK ...!


IN RED THEN.
THE CULPRIT OF THE FIRST TWILIGHT DEFINITELY KILLED 6 PEOPLE
!
AND
NATSUHI'S ROOM WAS SEALED AT THE VERY MOMENT THEY LEFT IT.
THE CULPRIT DID NOT LEAVE THE ROOM WITH THEM.
THE SEALS ON NATSUHI'S ROOM, THE DINING HALL, THE MANSION WILL DEFINITELY NOT BREAK.
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY CAN'T USE THE TRICK OF HIDING UNDER THE BED AND SNEAKING OUT UNNOTICED.
...IN-TER-EST-ING.

4TH TWILIGHT

THEY ALL WENT OUTSIDE AND BEGAN THEIR SEARCH FOR SHANNON AND KANON.
WHEN
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HER ...
GOHDA -SAN, IS SHANNON HERE?
SHE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO AND WENT OUTSIDE TOGETHER WITH KANON-KUN...
AND IF THEY ONLY KEPT PERFECT WATCH OVER EACH OTHER, ANOTHER TRAGEDY SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OCCUR.
BUT DUE TO A TINY MISTAKE IT STILL HAPPENED.

PLEASE, ANSWER ME...!!
SHAN-NON!!


I'M VERY SORRY, SHANNON IS DEAD AS WELL

SHAN-NON!!
SHAN-NON...!

IN THE TIME SINCE SHANNON LEFT AND WE ALL GATHERED TO GO SEARCH FOR HER...
EVERY ONE OF US HAD THE MARGIN TO BE ALONE...
YOU'RE RIGHT, NOBODY HAS AN ALIBI.
WE DON'T, THE SERVANTS DON'T, DOCTOR NANJO DOESN'T... EVEN GEORGE NII-SAN DOESN'T HAVE ONE.
A CRIME... WAS POSSIBLE.
SHAN-NON...!
SHAN-NON...!
WHO KILLED YOU...
WHO KILLED MY SHANNON ...
...AH.
GEORGE NII-SAN WOULD NEVER KILL SHANNON ....

HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO KILL HER....!

AND WITH SHANNON'S DEATH KANON GOES FOREVER MISSING

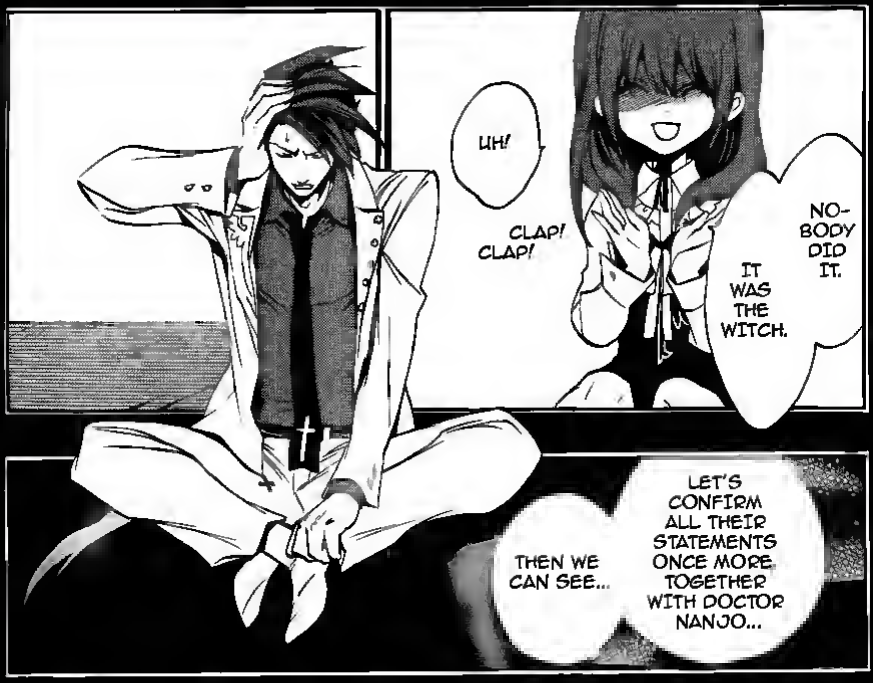
IN ORDER TO PREVENT MISUSE, SHANNON AND KANON'S MASTER-KEYS WHERE DESTROYED AT THE CRIME-SCENE WHERE THEY HAD BEEN LEFT.

5TH & 6TH TWILIGHT

SO AGAIN THEY HUDDLED UP IN THE GUESTHOUSE

THEY LOCKED ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS.
THEY CONSTRUCTED WHAT WAS A GIANT LOCKED-ROOM
THE TWO MASTER-KEYS REMAINING IN THAT LOCKED-ROOM WERE ACCOUNTED FOR
SO THEY BELIEVED IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO BREAK IN...
THE FIRST INCIDENT AND THE SECOND WERE BOTH LOCKED-ROOMS...
I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO DOUBT THE SERVANTS...
IT'S A STUNT THAT ONLY SOMEBODY WITH A MASTER-KEY COULD EVER PULL OFF...
BUT THEY ALL HAVE ALIBIS FOR THE TIME NATSUHI OBA-SAN WAS KILLED...
SO THEY COULD HAVE JUST MADE A SECRET AGREEMENT!
I BET SHANNON AND KANON JUST STOPPED BEING USEFUL, SO THEY KILLED THEM ...!
...
...I'M KINDA INTERESTED IN THE INSIDE OF THE ROOMS....

IF THE CULPRIT SIMPLY LURKED ON THE INSIDE, THEN A CRIME IS POSSIBLE...
THE INSIDE?
AND WHERE WAS THAT PERSON? WE COULDN'T FIND ANY SUSPICIOUS PERSON, COULD WE?!
.....
LOCKING A ROOM MEANS THAT THE OUTSIDE IS COMPLETELY LOCKED OFF.
BUT IF YOU USE THE INSIDE LOCK IT IS STILL A PROPER LOCKED-ROOM
THERE ARE NO HIDDEN DOORS...
THAT PLACE IS MY HOME! I SHOULD KNOW IT BEST...
.....
...KIHI HIHI!
BUT COULDN'T THERE BE... A HIDDEN DOOR?
IF THE CULPRIT ESCAPED THROUGH THAT...


UH!
CLAP! CLAP!
NO-BODY DID IT.
IT WAS THE WITCH.
LET'S CONFIRM ALL THEIR STATEMENTS ONCE MORE TOGETHER WITH DOCTOR NANJO...
THEN WE CAN SEE...

THE COUSINS, ACCOMPANIED BY DOCTOR NANJO, WENT TO THE DOWNSTAIRS SERVANT-ROOM
GOHDA -SAN, KUMASAWA -SAN. CAN WE COME IN?
... ANYBODY THERE...?

KUMA-
SAWA
-SAN...!!
GO...
GOHDA
-SAN...

A GRUESOME WAY TO DIE...
THE TWO DIED INSTANTLY DUE TO THEIR WOUNDS, I SUPPOSE...
THA... THAT'S ...!!
...NO, YOU'RE WRONG.
LOOK HERE.
HO... HOW?!
WHO?!
BECAUSEE WE WERE BUSY LOCKING EVERYTHING UP AND CHECKING THE ROOMS
AGAIN WE ARE ALL WITHOUT ALIBIS!

WITH A METHOD AS FLASHY AS CUTTING THEIR THROATS THE CULPRIT MUST BE DRENCHED IN BLOOD.
THEN... NEITHER US 4 COUSINS NOR DOCTOR NANJO COULD HAVE KILLED GOHDA-SAN AND KUMASAWA-SAN ...?
...BUT NEITHER DOCTOR NANJO NOR US COUSINS HAVE ANY DROPS OF BLOOD ON THEM.
...SO YOU MEAN, THE CULPRIT IS SOMEBODY ELSE...
SO SOMEBODY ELSE IS AROUND HERE!
THERE COULD BE TRACES OF SOMEBODY SNEAKING IN AROUND!

THEY WERE CONSIDERING AN ACT OF AN OUTSIDER SNEAKING INTO THE GUESTHOUSE AND THUS CHECKED THE LOCKS.

WEIRD.
THERE IS NOTHING OPEN AROUND...
THE GUEST-HOUSE WAS PERFECTLY LOCKED...!
SO... SO THE CULPRIT REALLY DOES HAVE A MASTER-KEY...
IMPOSSIBLE! THERE ARE NO MASTER-KEYS LEFT BESIDES THE 2 CARRIED BY GOHDA-SAN AND KUMASAWA-SAN!
THEN WHY ARE PEOPLE DYING?
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE CULPRIT HYPNOTIZED THEM AND MADE THEM KILL THEMSELVES?!
IT'S ENOUGH...!!

7TH & 8HT
TWILIGHT

KUMASAWA AND GOHDA'S MASTER-KEYS WERE DESTROYED AS WELL AND SO ALL MASTER-KEYS ARE LOST.

SO NOBODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE GUESTHOUSE LOCKED-ROOM ANYMORE.

YET, AS IF UNABLE TO HOLD BACK ANY LONGER, ANOTHER CORPSE WAS DISCOVERED BY THE COUSINS INSIDE THE GUESTHOUSE.

DOCTOR NANJO...!

...WHA...

NANJO WAS KILLED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE GUEST-HOUSE.
HE HAD LIKELY BEEN THERE TO CHECK ON THE LOCK OF THE DOOR.
...HE'S DEAD... HE WAS KILLED...!
...EVEN I CAN SEE ON FIRST SIGHT THAT THIS WAS INSTANT DEATH WITHOUT DOUBT...!
ALL THE LOCKS ARE PERFECT, SO IT'S STILL A LOCKED-ROOM.
SO, DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE CULPRIT IS AMONG US...?!
DOCTOR NANJO ALSO GOT HIS THROAT CUT...!
IT'S THE SAME AS WITH KUMASAWA -SAN AND GOHDA -SAN!
IS THERE ANY BLOOD SPLASHED ON ONE OF US?!
NONE OF US 4 COUSINS COULD HAVE KILLED DOCTOR NANJO!
THAT'S BULL-SHIT...!!

BUT EVERY-BODY BESIDES US IS DEAD!!
WHO AND HOW ...?!
NO ...
I HAVE ENOUGH OF ALL OF THIS...!
NO!
JES-SICA, WAIT!!

YOU'RE HERE, RIGHT? COME OUT YOU PIECES OF SHIT!!
ALL OF YOU !!
STOP HIDING AND SHOW YOURSELF !!!
!

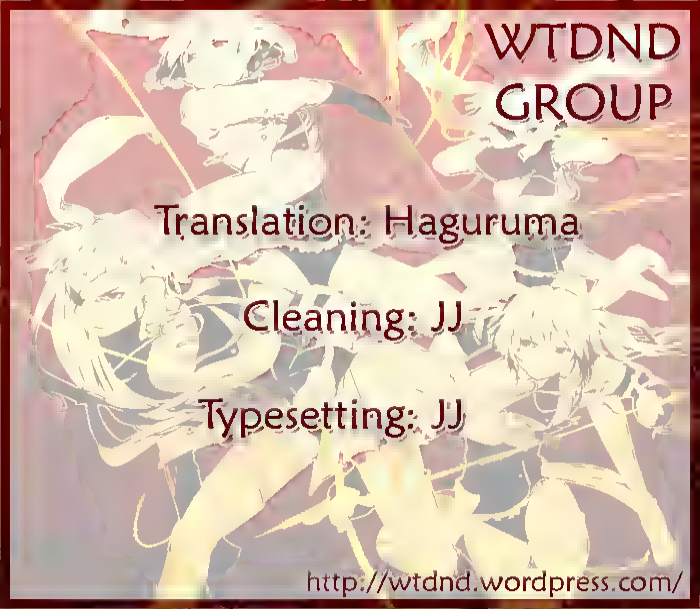
SHHHHH...
JES-SICAAA!
JES-SICA!
BATTLER, GEORGE, MARIA, THOSE 3 CHASED AFTER JESSICA WHO HAD RUN OFF.
BUT...
SPURT
SPURT

THEY ONLY FOUND THE TRAGIC SIGHT OF JESSICA'S CORPSE...

JESSICA CLEARLY DIED INSTANTLY AND IT WAS OBVIOUSLY MURDER.
BUT NONE OF THE 3 WHO CAME CHASING AFTER HER, NEITHER BATTLER, GEORGE, NOR MARIA COULD HAVE KILLED JESSICA.
DAMN!
NONE OF US 3 COULD HAVE KILLED JESSICA, RIGHT?
WHO'S THE CULPRIT?!
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?!
AS IF YOU COULD KILL ANYBODY MARIA...
MARIA COULD NOT KILL ANYONE.

KIHIHI, THANK YOU.
GEORGE ONII-CHAN, YOU COULDN'T KILL AN ADULT.
YOU COULD KILL A CHILD... OR A MINOR, THOUGH...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS...
IF WE COULDN'T DO IT ... DOES THAT MEAN THERE IS SOMEBODY ELSE KILLING PEOPLE?
UH! BEATRICE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
THERE SHOULD ONLY BE OUR FAMILY ON THIS ISLAND...

WHO DID THIS?
ALL OF THIS ...!!!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...?!


WTDND
GROUP
Translation: Haguruma
Cleaning: JJ
Typesetting: JJ
http://wtdnd.wordpress.com/